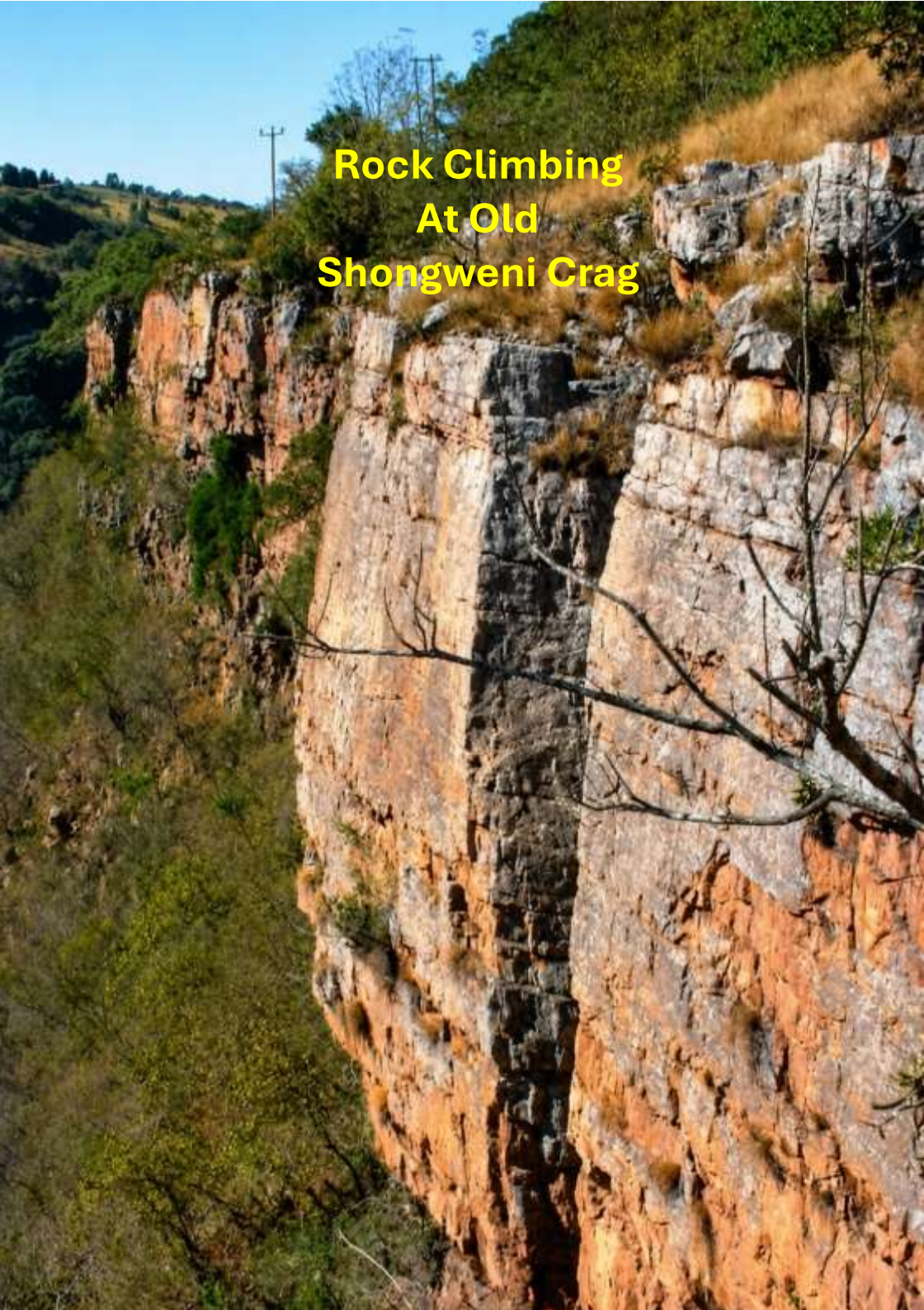
Rock Climbing
At Old
Shongweni Crag

Rock Climbing
at the
Old Shongweni Crags

Updated PDF Edition with hyperlinks

Gavin Peckham

July 2024

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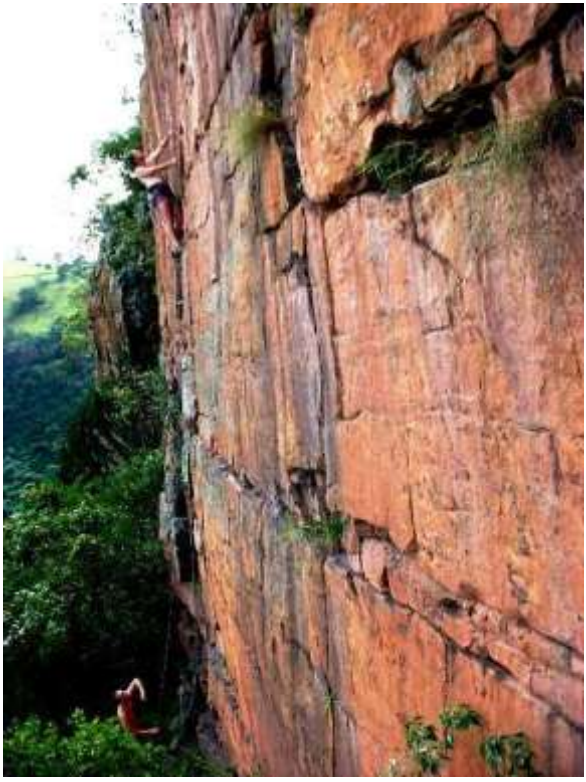

Greg Wooding on 'Into the Future' (18)

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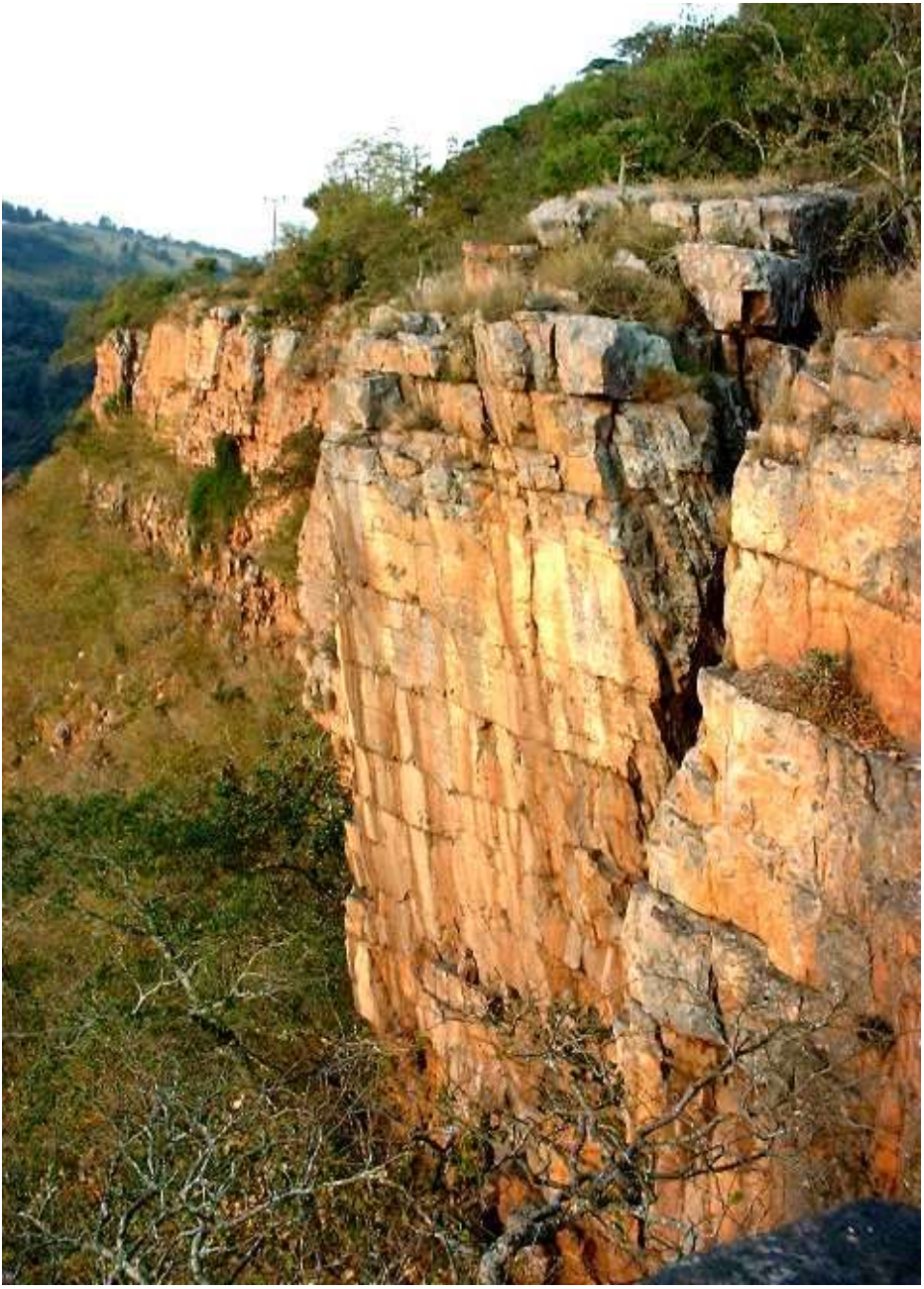


'The Gathering' (25) face on the Diamond Block.

RESCUE INFORMATION

Mountain Club of South Africa
KwaZulu-Natal Section
E-mail: kzn.mcsa.comm@gmail.com
Website: http://kzn.mcsa.org.za

Non-Technical Emergencies: If the patient is easily accessible and no ropes or helicopter are required, phone Netcare: 082911, ER: 24084124 or the government ambulance on 10177. Please post someone at the gate on the main road to show the ambulance where to turn off.

Technical Climbing Emergencies: Please report the problem to any of the following Mountain Club Rescue Organisers directly: Colin McCoy 0825467963 (convenor); Paul Roth 0763950119 (convenor); Carl Dreyer 0845279985; Jon Sargood 0826525202; Gavin Raubenheimer 0829905876 or Gustav Greffrath 0832369010

For helicopter rescue quote: 29° 50' 31" S ; 30° 42' 50" E. These are the approximate co-ordinates of a suitable landing area. Be sure to mention that there is an overhead power line in the area.

When reporting an accident or fatality:
Dos: (1) Stay in cell phone range. (2) Give your name and phone number. (3) Give the patient's name, age and gender. (4) Give information on the patient's symptoms or problems. (5) Give information on the pre vailing weather conditions. (6) Administer First Aid to the best of your ability and training.

Don'ts: (1) Don't panic. (2) Don't make hasty decisions. Most emergencies are sorted out better after a little thought and planning. (3) In the case of a fatality, do not move the body or disturb the area until authorized to do so by the police or rescue team.

DISCLAIMER

Rock climbing is a potentially dangerous sport in which you can be seriously injured or even killed. You climb entirely at your own risk. Landowners, route bolters, belayers, etc. are entirely free of any legal responsibility for your welfare unless gross negligence on their part can be unconditionally proven.

This guide is intended only for the use of experienced climbers who have the necessary expertise, experience and judgement to ensure their own safety. Whilst I have made a reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide you, nevertheless, make use of it entirely at your own risk.

> **The information in this guide will obviously become outdated as time passes so climbers are personally responsible for ascertaining the situation and conditions prevailing at the time of their visit**.

NEW ROUTE INFORMATION

Suggestions or new route information may be sent to:
Gavin Peckham, 60 Bryn Heol, Bedwas, UK, CF83 8FA.
WhatsApp: +44 79 4955 0221 **but rather e-mail me at:**
gavin.peckham@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Roger Nattrass for permission to use information from his excellent book, "A Climber's Guide to Natal Rock". Roger in turn derived much of his information from Gerald Camp's earlier route guide, "Natal Rock". Both these guides are now collectors' items. Gerald was the principal developer and route opener at this crag in its early days and has maintained an interest in the venue to the present day.

ACCESS

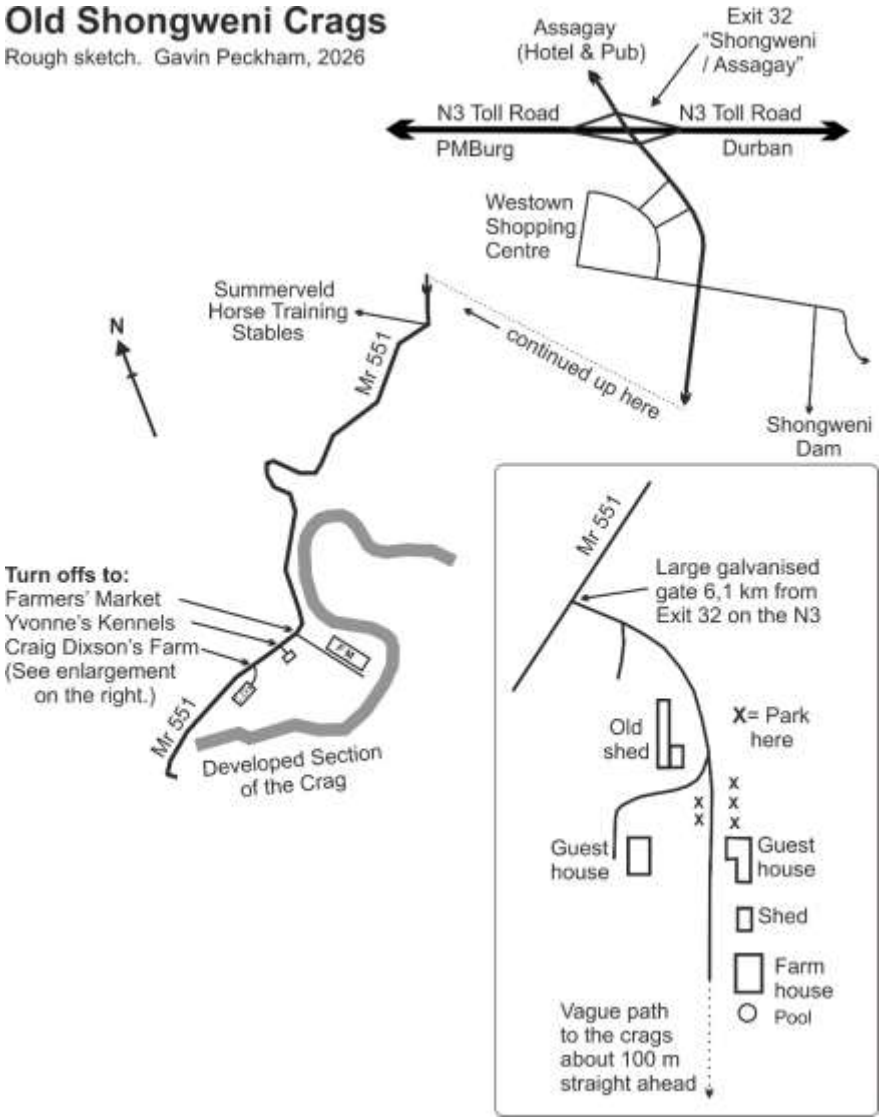
The landowner, Mr Craig Dixson allows access to climbers provided they phone him (031–7 69 1095 or 082 729 2770) and obtain permission prior to their arrival. Access to these excellent crags is far from assured – please ensure that you make arrangements prior to arrival, close gates, leave no litter, park considerately and generally behave in a fashion conducive to fostering good relations with the landowner.

LOCATION – AND HOW TO GET THERE

The Shongweni Crags are situated about 6 km west of the N3 toll road between Pietermaritzburg and Durban. To get there, take Exit 32 from the N3 (the 'Shongweni / Assagay' off-ramp). Head west, passing the turn-off to Shongweni Dam on the left and then the turn-off to Summerveld Stables on the right. After about 5 km the road begins to wind downhill and 6 km from the N3 off-ramp, there are several driveways close together on the left-hand side of the road. About 50 m further there is a large, galvanised metal gate that gives access to the crags on Craig Dixson's property. See the sketch map on the following page. If you have made prior arrangements the gate will be unlocked. Drive through, and after closing the gate, continue along the dirt track for about 200 m until you approach the owner's home. Stop before reaching the buildings and park on the right next to an elevated petrol tank or just before that on the left. To reach the crags walk along the road, past the farm house and pool to reach a vague track that leads down to the crags. The owners big dogs are noisy but harmless. You are welcome to swim in the pool after climbing, but it's probably best to clear this with the owner when you contact him for access.

Old Shongweni Crags

Rough sketch. Gavin Peckham, 2026



THE WEATHER

You can't beat the winter weather in KZN but the summers can get baking hot although, even in summer, the crag usually gets morning shade until about 11 am. Bring sun cream, plenty to drink and remember the possibility of a dip in the pool on the way out. This crag is usually dry even when it is raining in the Durban area.

SECURITY

One of the great attractions of this venue is the total personal security that it offers - you, your gear and your car will be totally safe from the unwanted attentions of "undesirable" elements.

CELL PHONE RECEPTION

There are good cell phone comms along the top of the crags and at most places along the base.

ROCK & ROUTES

The rock at Shongweni is Natal Series Sandstone that is typical of many climbing venues in Natal. It is generally of excellent quality but there are a few odd patches of Wheatbix. The venue also has an unusual number of wedged blocks. Some of these are immovable but others look dodgy. Please exercise the required caution.

There is a total of just over 80 routes. These are mostly trad routes but include about a dozen bolted lines and another dozen "around the corner" and out of bounds. The average grade is about 16 although there are many excellent routes in the higher grades as well as routes in the lower grades. All but a couple of the routes are single pitches of about 8 m to 25 m.

Some of the routes tend to get sandy or vegetated. Hopefully each climber will do their bit to keep the lines as clean as possible.

There is plenty of potential for new routes. The owner has no objection to bolting, but please confirm this with him first. You are welcome to retro-bolt any of my routes but it is essential to get

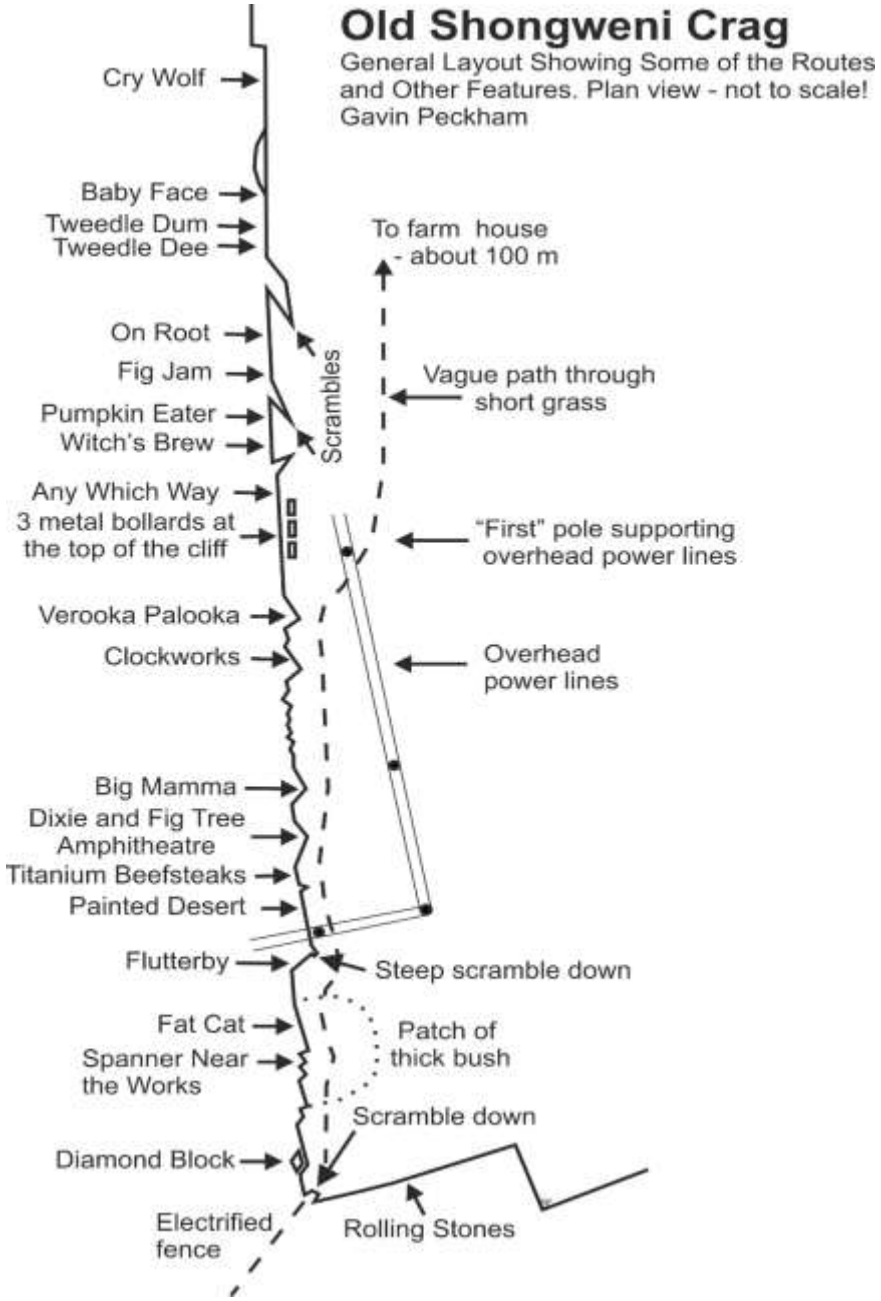
permission from the first ascentionist should you wish to retro-bolt any of their lines.

To get your bearings at the crags, have a look at the plan view sketch on the following page. Here are some things to look out for:

There are two easy scrambles at the farmhouse end of the crag. These are about 20 m and 35 m back from the 'first' electricity pole. There is a steep scramble-down 5 m after the point where the power lines cross the crag and another at the furthest point from the farm house.

It is possible to walk fairly easily along the base of the crag in most areas. Sometimes it is quicker abseil from one of the trees or other convenient points. The metal bollards near the 'first' electricity pole are suitable for this purpose and there are convenient abseil chains above 'Verooka Palooka' although these are not easily visible. Elsewhere you can usually find a suitable tree or bush.

A view of Shongweni Dam from the 'Jungle Bunny' arête.


Old Shongweni Crag
General Layout Showing Some of the Routes and Other Features. Plan view - not to scale!
Gavin Peckham
Cry Wolf
Baby Face
Tweedle Dum
Tweedle Dee
To farm house - about 100 m
On Root
Fig Jam
Pumpkin Eater
Witch's Brew
Scrambles
Vague path through short grass
Any Which Way
3 metal bollards at the top of the cliff
"First" pole supporting overhead power lines
Verooka Palooka
Clockworks
Overhead power lines
Big Mamma
Dixie and Fig Tree Amphitheatre
Titanium Beefsteaks
Painted Desert
Flutterby
Steep scramble down
Fat Cat
Spanner Near the Works
Patch of thick bush
Scramble down
Diamond Block
Electrified fence
Rolling Stones

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

The routes described below are listed from left to right starting at the left-hand end of the crag which is nearest to the farm house. The first 11 routes are on the farmhouse side of the "first" electricity pole – see sketch on the previous page. These routes are easily reached by going down one of the scrambles and walking along the bottom of the crag. These routes are all very short and generally easy. This is a good shady area to take your grandmother climbing !

1. **Cry Wolf (15) **** (CW)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Neil Peckham (01 September 2002)

Start about 20 m to the left of the first easy scramble - more or less in front of the farmhouse at a short, right-facing corner that is capped by a small roof. Stem up the corner to the jug under the roof then step out to the right to exit. There is no significant gear low down.

2. **Baby Face (10) *** (BF)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham (17 August 2002)

Start 2 m to the left of 'Tweedle Dum' under a protruding nose of rock. Climb up 3 m then step left onto the end of a large ledge. Climb up a few moves until it is possible to step out to the right onto the top of the protruding nose using a small, concealed hold around the corner to the right. Finish straight up.

3. **Tweedle Dum (09) *** (TU)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham (17 August 2002)

Start as for 'Tweedle Dee' but tend left, to reach the base of recess on the left to the 'Tweedle Dee' arête. From the recess, step up left onto a ledge and then exit straight up. It is harder than 9 if you start off slightly to the left of 'Tweedle Dee'.

4. **Tweedle Dee (08) *** (TE)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham (17 August 2002)

Go down the scramble located about 35 m back towards the farm house from the first electricity pole. At the bottom of the scramble, on the edge closest to the farmhouse, there is a small, weathered stump at the base of the rock. Start just left of the stump and climb straight up the face for about 3 m to reach a tiny arête between two recesses. Climb straight up the arête to the top.

5. **On Root (13) [4B, C] **** (OR)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham (17 August 2002)

About 10 m to the right of 'Tweedle Dee' there is a fig tree at the top of the crag. Start just left of a long, arm-thick root descends all the way from the tree to the ground. Climb up and mantle onto a ledge about 3 m up, then climb straight up the middle of the clean, gray face to the chains. Using the root prior to the mantle makes life much easier!

6. **After the Rain (10) **** (AR)
Opening party: Bruce Sobey; Gavin Peckham (20 November 2005)

Climb the short face about 2 m to the right of 'On Root'.

7. **Fig Jam (13) **** (FJ)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Greg Wooding (17 August 2002)

Start 5 m to the right of 'On Root', just to the right of the fig tree at the top of the crag, but just left of a deep off-width. Climb straight up to the top. Using the fig tree branches or the block to the right of the off-width is 'off limits'. Well protected.

There is an easy scramble between 'Fig Jam' and 'Pumpkin Eater'.

8. **Pumpkin Eater (14) **** (PE)
Opening party: Greg Wooding; Gavin Peckham (17 August 2002)
Start 5 m to the right of 'Fig Jam' under a small overhang 2 m up. Stem up past the overhang and then climb straight up the orange, lichen-infested face above. Gear is sparse but adequate.

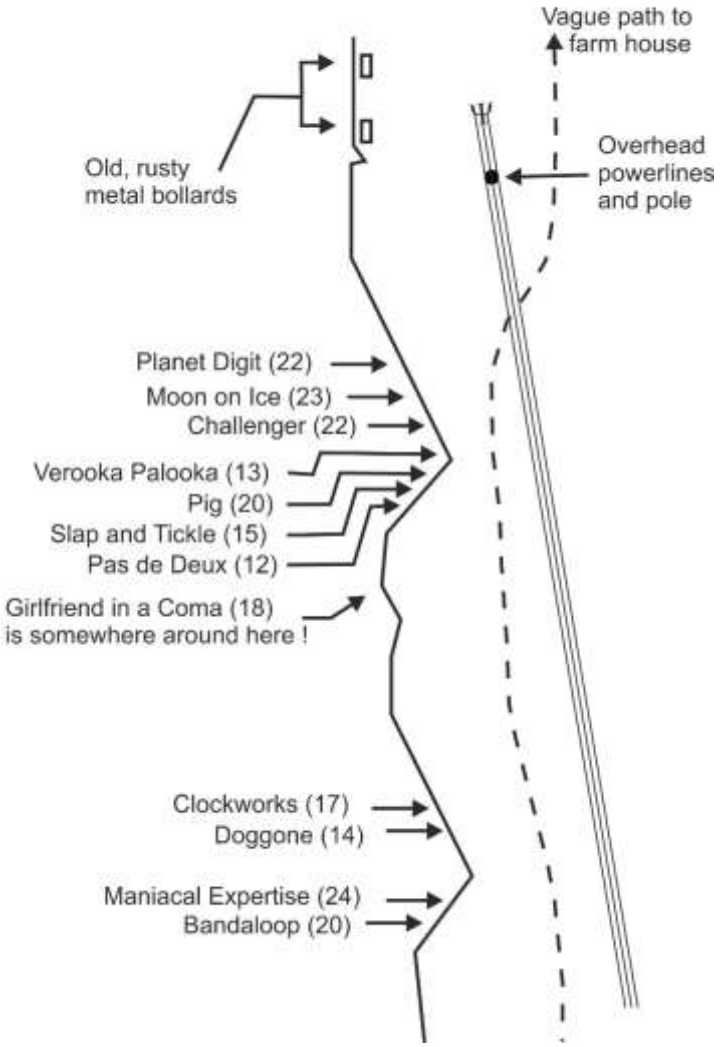
9. **Witch's Brew (17) ****** (WB)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Neil Peckham (01 September 2002)
Start about 3 m to the right of 'Pumpkin Eater', below a large, overhanging block at the top of the crag. Climb straight up the clean face and exit to the right of the block using a series of lay away holds. An alternative exit to the left of the block has not yet been attempted.

10. **Have We Sunk to This? (09) **** (HW)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Sobey (11 November 2005)
Start about 10 m to the right of 'Witch's Brew' and just to the left of a tree at the bottom of the crag. Climb straight up to a ledge and then up blocks to the top.

11. **Any Which Way (13) ***** (AW)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Greg Wooding (17 August 2002)
Start about 15 m to the right of 'Witch's Brew' at some crumpled-looking orange rock with right-tending grooves. Climb up for about 4 m and then continue up diagonally right, past a small tree to reach a large ledge. Walk across to the right hand end of the ledge and then climb straight up to the top where you can belay on one of the old metal bollards.

Projects: About 14 m to the right of 'Any Which Way' there is a narrow, right-facing face and a deep, right-tending corner crack. Gavin Peckham is working on the face, whilst Greg Wooding is working on the corner crack. **Update:** Now open projects since these old codgers have long since emigrated.

The location of the routes from 'Planet Digit' to 'Bandaloop' are shown in the following sketch.



The routes from 'Planet Digit' to 'Challenger' are all on the left hand face of the 'Verooka Palooka' open book. This is located about 20 m beyond the first electricity pole as you walk in to the crags. The easiest to access these routes by abseiling down the 'Verooka Palooka' corner

12. **Planet Digit (22) ***** (PT)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

This route is in the left-hand face of the 'Verooka Palooka' open book. Start 2 m to the left of the blocks at the base of the wall. Pull up to the rail then follow the laybacks up the obvious break to a peg. Climb past this and exit to the left.

13. Planet Digit Direct (23) ****
Opening party: Stephan Isebeck (1989)

Start as for 'Planet Digit' and climb straight up the face past the bolt.

14. **Moon on Ice (23) [xB; C] ****** (MI) (Retro-bolted 2007)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

Start immediately to the left of the blocks at the base of the wall. Follow the obvious break above, finishing up the wall past the bolt.

15. **Challenger (22) ***** (CR)
Opening party: Ian Guest (1989)

Start on the blocks in the 'Verooka Palooka' corner, just to the right of 'Moon on Ice', and immediately to the left of a small tree. Climb straight up to the top past two bolts.

16. **Verooka Palooka (14) [xB; C] ***** (VP) (Retro-bolted 2007)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

This route takes the crack up the corner at the back of the open book. Climb easily up to an awkward exit.

The chains provide an easy ab point to access routes in this area.

The routes from 'Pig' to 'Pas de Deux' are all on the righthand face of the 'Verooka Palooka' open book.

17. **Pig (20) **** (PG)
Opening party: John Rolfe; Linda Waldman (1989)
Start 2 m to the right of the 'Verooka Palooka' corner. Climb straight up the face pulling through the roofs above.

18. **Slap and Tickle (15) **** (ST)
Opening party: Grant Cockburn; Andrew Russell-Boulton (1989)
Start 4 m to the right of the 'Verooka Palooka' corner. Climb up to a small ledge with a bush and pull through the roof above.

19. **Pas de Deux (12) **** (PX)
Opening party: A Malherbe; Gerald Camp (1989)
From the bottom of 'Verooka Palooka', traverse easily along the ledge on the right-hand face. From near the end of the ledge, climb straight up the face.

19a. **Feeling Left Out (18) [4B] ***** (FL) (Retro-bolted in 2007)
FA: Gerald Camp (1986)
Scramble up onto a block left of 'Girlfriend in a Coma'. Some exciting jug pulling through bulges. Somehow this route was left out in earlier guides.

20. **Girlfriend in a Coma (18) [4B; C] **** (GF) (Retro-bolted 2007)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)
Start at the base of the roofs just around the corner to the right of the 'Verooka Palooka' open book. Climb up to the bulge and crank through on the left. Move up to the roof above and pull through onto the ramp.

The routes from 'Clockworks' to 'Bandaloop' are all in the 'Clockworks' open book which is located about 40 m to the right of 'Verooka Palooka'.

21. **Clockworks (17) [5B; C] **** (CK) (Retro-bolted 2008)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

About 40 m to the right of 'Verooka Palooka' there is another large open book with blocky chimney up the corner. The left-hand face of this open book is a clean, orange/grey wall with a fig tree on a ledge near the top. Start near the middle of the left-hand face by a 1 m high, semi-detached block. Climb the crack and then tend left up the face avoiding the broken rock on the right. Exit right of the tree.

22. **Doggone (14) **** (DG)
Opening party: Gavin Raubenheimer; Miles Holman (May 1993)

Start about 1m to the left of 'Clockworks' and about 4 m to the right of the chimney in the corner. Climb the obvious blocky break and then go diagonally to the right up the good face to finish just to the right of a fig tree. (It seems that this route is just an easier variation of 'Clockworks'.)

23. **Maniacal Expertise (24) ****** (ME)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

This line takes the left-hand side of the wall to the right of 'Clockworks' and 'Doggone'. Start below the peg and climb straight up the face, exiting slightly to the right.

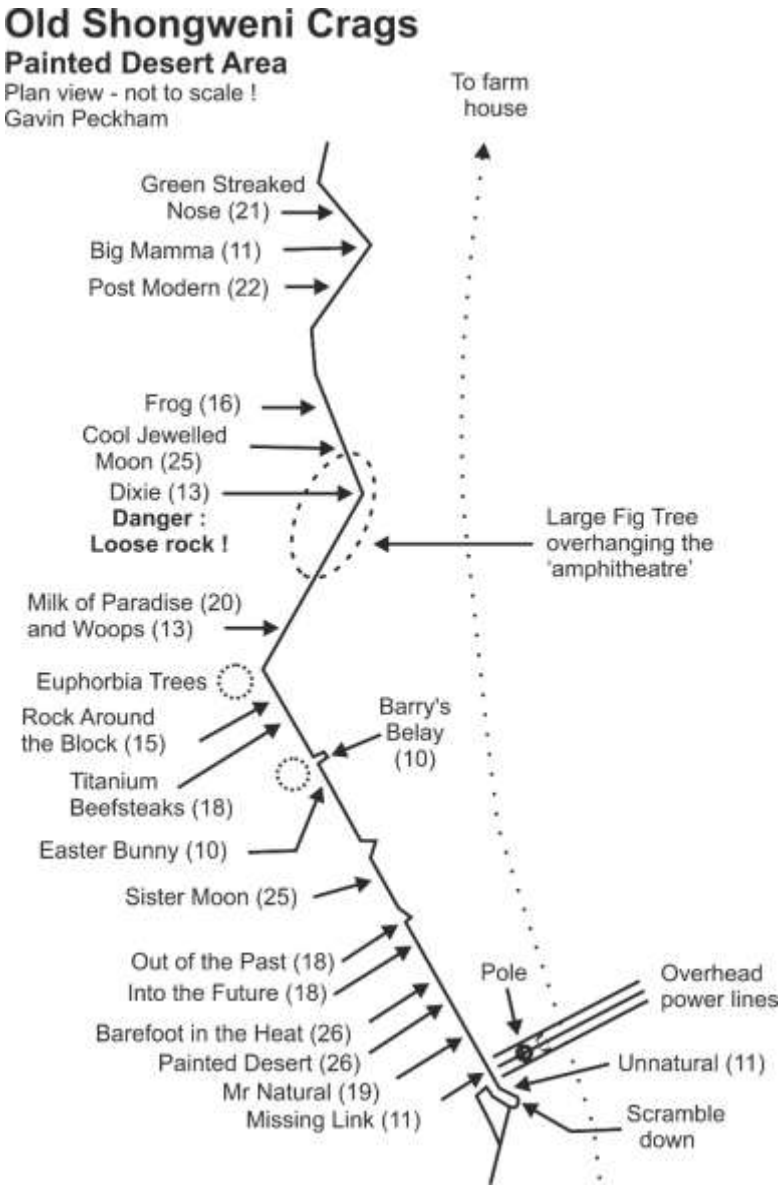
24. **Bandaloop (20) ***** (BP)
Opening party: Gerald Camp; Dave Robertson (1989)

Start just to the right of 'Maniacal Expertise' and climb the face past a block which appears to be loose.

25. **Was It That Long Ago? (13) ***** (WI)
Opening party: Gerald Camp; Luke Wijnberg (22 June 2001)

Start just around the corner to the right of 'Bandaloop'. Climb the arête on the left of the small face. A short, steep section can be avoided by moving to the right, then up and back left onto the arête. The protection is good.

The location of the routes from 'Green Streaked Nose' to the 'Painted Desert' face are shown in the following sketch.



The routes from 'Green Streaked Nose' to 'Post Modern' are all in the 'Big Mamma' open book. This is located about 120 m beyond 'Verooka Palooka' and immediately to the left of 'Dixie' and the 'Fig Tree Amphitheatre' - see below. There is plenty of potential for new routes in the 50 odd metres between 'Was It That Long Ago?' and 'Green Streaked Nose'.

26. **Green Streaked Nose (21) ***** (GS)
Opening party: Andrew Russell-Boulton; Simon Joubert (1989)
Climb up the centre of the face to the left of 'Big Mamma' and pull through the middle of the roof. Finish anywhere up the face above. A great move through the roof.

27. **Big Mamma (11) **** (BM)
Opening party: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (07 Nov 1993)
Start in the large open book recess immediately to the left of 'Dixie' and the 'Fig Tree amphitheatre'. Climb up the back of the open book to a roof at 5 m. Pull through on the right (awkward) and then up more easily. Step to the right near the top to avoid a loose block.

28. **Modern Post Fragmented Neo-Traditionalist Boulder Problem (22) **** (BP)
Opening party: Andrew Russell-Boulton; Simon Joubert (1989)
Start below a low roof on the wall to the right of 'Big Mamma'. Pull through this roof below the small tree and finish up the break.

The routes from 'Frog' to 'Woops' are all in the 'Dixie' open book located immediately to the left of the 'Titanium Beefsteaks' face.

29. **Frog (16) **** (FG)
Opening party: A Russell-Boulton, Ron Uken; Simon Joubert (1989)
Start under a small roof formed by a block about 3 m up and about 4 m to the left of 'Cool Jewelled Moon'. Climb left past the roof and then up the orange and black face above.

30. .**Cool Jewelled Moon (25) ***** (CJ)
Opening party: Andrew Russell-Boulton (1989)
Start at a perfect, rectangular, undercling pocket about 5 m to the left of the 'Dixie' corner. Crank up past a very old peg to a roof. Pull through the centre of the roof and continue up the face above.

31. **Dixie (13) **** (DX)
Opening party: Gavin Raubenheimer; Miles Holman (May 1993)
Just around the corner, to the left of the 'Titanium Beefsteaks' face is a large bay / small amphitheatre that is shaded by a large fig tree growing out from the top of the crag. Start at the main, central corner in the 'fig tree amphitheatre' and climb the short layback crack to the top. **DANGER:** During July 2007 we noticed that the bottom of this route has collapsed but retains a 3 m column of unstable perched blocks that look **extremely dangerous !**

32. **Mantis Mania (20) ***** (MM)
Opening party: Grant Cockburn; Simon Joubert (1989)
Start 2 m to the left of 'Milk of Paradise'. Climb up the vague crack in the wall to a small, stepped roof. Move right and follow the crack to the top. Gear is tricky.

33. **Milk of Paradise (20) ***** (MP)
Opening party: Andrew Russell-Boulton (1989)
Start in a shallow recess towards the right-hand side of the wall to the right of 'Dixie'. Climb straight up the face, pulling the small roof encountered halfway up.

34. **Woops (13) ***** (WP)
Opening party: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (07 Nov 1993)
Start as for 'Milk of Paradise' about 10 m to the right of 'Dixie'. Climb up the broken recess for about 4 m then traverse out to the right to reach the arête and exit straight up.

The next 2 routes are both on the 'Titanium Beefsteaks' face which is just to the left of the 'Painted Desert' face and separated from it by a short, low wall.

35. **Rock Around the Block (15) ***** (RA)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Gavin Raubenheimer (07 Nov 1993)
Start on the ledge 1 m to the left of Titanium Beefsteaks'. Climb up diagonally left for 5 m to the obvious arête. Then move up diagonally to the right for 3 m until it is possible to exit straight up easily on good holds. The 'block' fell off on the opening ascent and now resides a considerable distance away in the valley below.

36. **Titanium Beefsteaks (18) ****** (TB)
Opening party: Ian Manson; Gerald Camp (1988)
Left of the 'Painted Desert' face there is a short wall and then a chimney with a large euphorbia tree growing in front of it. About 10 m further left there is a second large euphorbia (now falling apart – July 2007). The route takes a line up the centre of the steep orange wall between the two euphorbias. Starting from the ledge, climb straight up for about 4 m to a flake. Move left to another flake and then exit straight up on small holds (crux).

37. **Barry's Belay (10) **** (BB)
Opening party: Bruce Tomalin; Barry Tomalin (22 July 2007)
Climb the back of the recess that separates the 'Titanium' face from the 'Easter Bunny' face. Exit to the right near top.

38. **Easter Bunny (10) **** (EB)
Opening party: G Peckham, A van Tonder; R Owen (13 April 2001)
The line is found towards the left-hand side of the short wall between the 'Painted Desert' and the 'Titanium Beefsteaks' faces. Climb the obvious lay-away crack and then scramble straight up to a convenient belay tree at the top of the crag.

The next 9 routes are all located on the 'Painted Desert' face which is immediately to the left of the scramble down and the overhead power lines.

39. **Sister Moon (25) ***** (SM)
Opening party: Roger Nattrass (1988)
Start near the left-hand end of the 'Painted Desert' wall. Climb straight up the face past two bolts near the top. Very tricky !

40. **Out of the Past (16) ***** (OP)
First known ascent: Steve Salmon (1988). Apparently this route was opened earlier by Ian Wallace and called 'Brain Magic'.
Start a couple of metres to the right of 'Sister Moon' at the obvious recess / corner in the 'Painted Desert' face. This is located about 12 m to the left of the distinctive 'Mr Natural' crack. Climb the recess to a rail with a thin vertical crack above. At this point do a balancy move far to the right (the line crosses 'Into the Future' at this point) and climb a sloping crack to the top.

41. **Into the Future (18) ***** (IF)
First known ascent: Steve Salmon (1988)
Start about 1,5 m to the right of 'Out of the Past'. Climb the face to the rail. Move slightly left (crossing 'Out of the Past') and then climb the thin crack above the 'Out of the Past' recess. You can 'mix and match' various combinations between this and the previous route.

42. **Barefoot in the Head (26) ****** (BH)
Opening party: Evan Wiercx (1989)

This is an impressive line immediately to the left of the 'Painted Desert'. Start below the peg (*) and climb straight up the wall, moving slightly right near the top to finish as for 'The Painted Desert'. Bold and tricky to protect!

(*) This peg is in the same rail as the peg on 'Painted Desert', but is located about 2 m further to the left.

The location of the following routes is shown in the sketch on the next page.

43. **Painted Desert (26) [xB] ******* (PD) (Retro-bolted)
Opening party: Roger Nattrass (1988)

This outstanding route climbs the centre of the superb, blank wall below the overhead power lines. Start at a layback hold and move up to the rail on the right of a peg. Move across to just left of a peg and then climb straight up the wall moving left near the top to the obvious finish.

44. **Mr Natural (21) ****** (MN)
Opening party: Mike Roberts (1979)

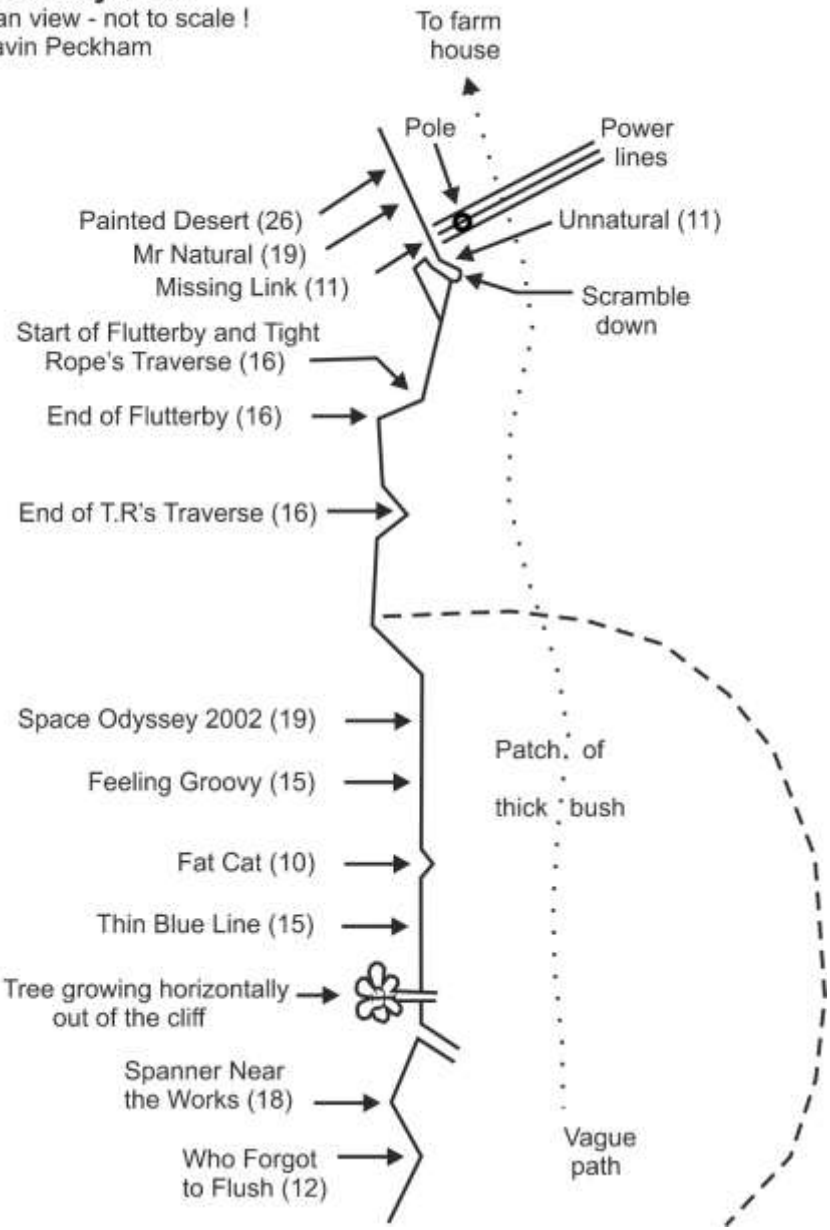
Towards the right-hand side of the 'Painted Desert' face there is an obvious crack line that runs straight up to the top of the crag. After a strenuous, technical start, climb straight up the crack to the top.

45. **Missing Link (11) **** (ML)
Opening party: Unknown
At the right-hand end of the 'Painted Desert' face, and adjacent to the large block at the base of the scramble, is a large, blocky crack line. Climb straight up the crack to the top of the crag.

Old Shongweni Crags

Flutterby Area

Plan view - not to scale !
Gavin Peckham



46. **Unnatural (11) **** (UN)
Opening party: Miles Holman; Gavin Raubenheimer (May 1993)
Climb the short, steep face half way down the scramble and about 5 m to the right of 'Missing Link'.

A steep scramble descends between 'Unnatural' and 'Flutterby'

47. **Flutterby (16) ***** (FB)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Gavin Raubenheimer (14 Apr 2001)
From the base of the 'Painted Desert' face, walk to the right and continue along a ledge for about 15 m past the bottom of the scramble until the ledge peters out at a corner with a prominent, undercut arête about 4 m away on its right.

P1. Climb the blocky crack in the corner (crux) for about 5 m until it is possible to traverse out to the right, just below a heavily vegetated ledge to reach a small stance on the arête.

P2. Climb the arête to the top, starting slightly left of the arête, but moving onto the arête higher up. Very well protected.

Note: There are some large, loose blocks on the traverse ledge. Step over these carefully until someone can trundle them safely.

48. **Tight Rope's Traverse (16, 13) ***** (TR)
Opening party: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (14 Apr 2001)
P1. Climb 'Flutterby' as far as the small stance on the arête.

P2. Traverse out to the right for 5 m to reach the base of a large open book that runs straight up to the top of the crag. Climb the back of the open book, moving out to the right just below the top.

Note: To bypass the crux start on the previous two routes you can walk out to the right along a ledge about half way down the scramble. This gives access to the traverse line on 'Flutterby'. The climbing from this point does not exceed grade 13.

49. **House Arrest (17) **** (HA)
Opening party: Trevor Burden; Grant Cockburn (1988)
About 10 m (?) to the right of the power lines is a large blocky roof. Start about 2 m to the right of the roof on smallish holds, going for a greasy rail. Climb onto a small ledge and then move through the small roof veering slightly right. Move 2 m left and then finish up over the bulge. No one seems to know where this route is.

About 50 m beyond the 'Painted Desert' scramble and below a patch of thick bush, is an easy angled grey face above a vegetated ledge. The far (RHS) of the face ends at a steep gully with a large tree growing almost horizontally out from the top of the crag. The next four routes are located along this face. There are several suitable trees for belaying or abseiling. These routes can also be reached by scrambling down near the start of 'Flutterby' and walking along the base of the crags.

50. **Space Odyssey 2002 (19) [7B, C] ****** (SO)
Opening party: Anthony van Tonder (14 September 2002)
Easy to locate - just look for the diagonal line of bolts - the only bolts in this area. Step up onto the face then pull up strenuously (crux) to a good ledge about 3 m up. Using thin under-clings, traverse delicately about 3 m to the right to reach a shallow recess with 'lumpy' rock. Follow this up to the chains.

51. **Feeling Groovy (15) ***** (FG)
Opening party: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham; Cesar de Carvalho (13 April 2001)
Towards the left-hand side of the face there is a fig tree growing out of the face about half way up. A couple of metres to the right of the fig tree is a large, right-tending crack line. Climb to the top of the crack, step left and then continue straight up the grey face above.

52. **Fat Cat (10) ***** (FC)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Anthony van Tonder (13 April 2001)
About 5 m to the right of 'Feeling Groovy' is a recess capped at about 4 m by a roof with a small tree growing from under it. Climb the recess to the roof, step left and then continue straight up the grey face above.

53. **Thin Blue Line (15) ***** (TL)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Anthony van Tonder (13 April 2001)
Start about 3 m to the right of the 'Fat Cat' recess below three small, staggered overlaps. Climb straight up to the top. The line becomes thin and balancy with sparse gear near the top.

54. **Spanner Near the Works (18) ***** (SW)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1988)
Just past (to the right of) the previous face there is a long orange / grey face undercut by an immense rectangular roof. The route starts below this roof. After a boulder problem start, climb up the arête to avoid the overgrowth. Move onto the face and climb up to the small roof, just to the left of the large roof. Pull through this onto the face and continue straight up to the top.

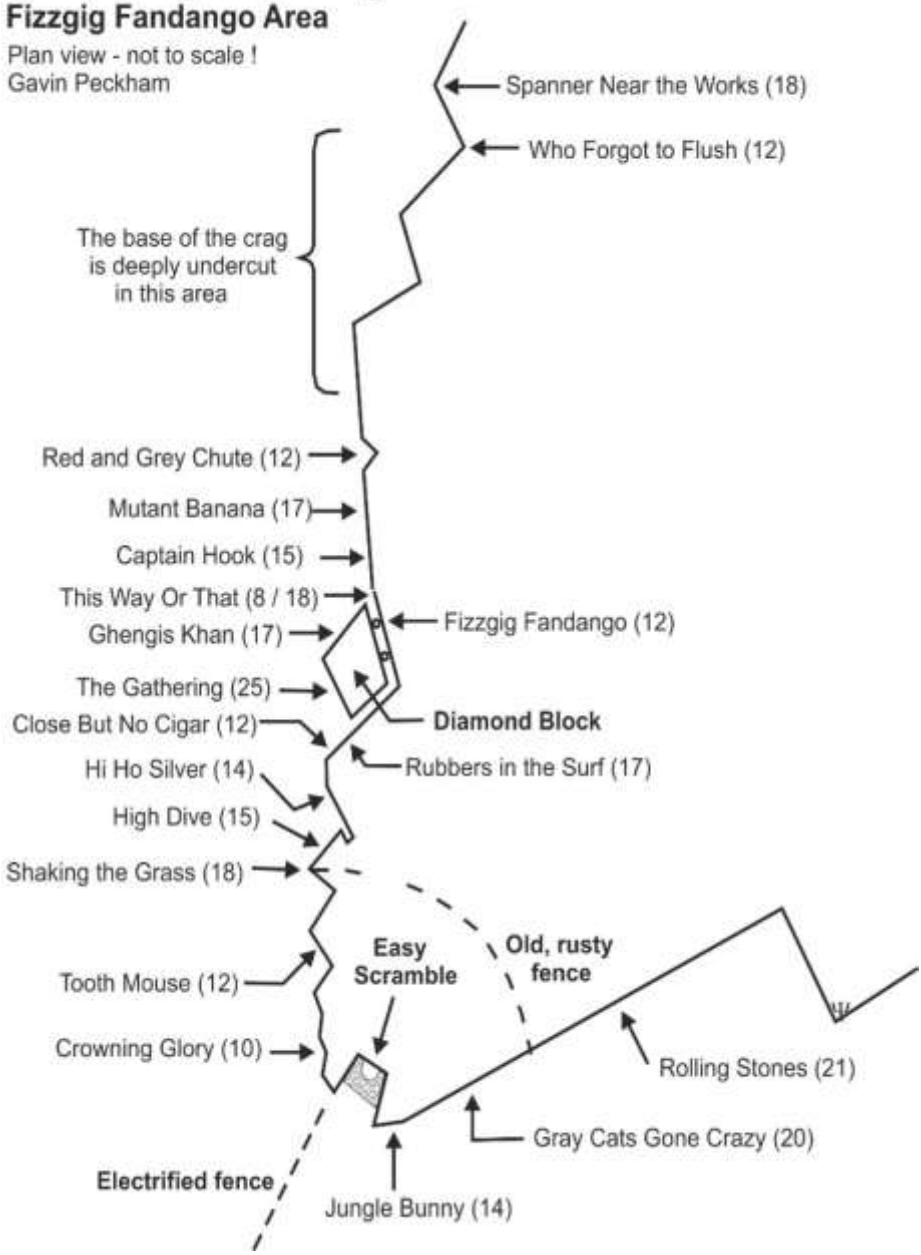
55. **Who Forgot to Flush? (12) **** (WF)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)
Start to the right of 'Spanner Near the Works'. Climb up the corner then move right to the obvious crack.

The following routes can be most easily reached by going down the scramble at the end of the crag then walking back along the base of the crag. The location of these routes is shown in the sketch on the following page.

Old Shongweni Crags

Fizzgig Fandango Area

Plan view - not to scale !
Gavin Peckham


Spanner Near the Works (18)
Who Forgot to Flush (12)
The base of the crag is deeply undercut in this area
Red and Grey Chute (12)
Mutant Banana (17)
Captain Hook (15)
This Way Or That (8 / 18)
Ghengis Khan (17)
Fizzgig Fandango (12)
The Gathering (25)
Close But No Cigar (12)
Diamond Block
Hi Ho Silver (14)
Rubbers in the Surf (17)
High Dive (15)
Shaking the Grass (18)
Easy Scramble
Old, rusty fence
Tooth Mouse (12)
Crowning Glory (10)
Rolling Stones (21)
Gray Cats Gone Crazy (20)
Electrified fence
Jungle Bunny (14)

56. **Red and Grey Chute (12) ***** (RG)
Opening party: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (19 Jun 2001)

The face on the main crag, immediately to the left of the Diamond Block, is split midway by a distinctive V-shaped recess. Climb the deep, blocky crack to reach a small tree at the base of the V-shaped recess. Step left to the arête and climb this to the top.

57. **Mutant Banana (17) ****** (MB)
Opening party: Stewart Middlemiss; Linda Waldmann (1989)

Start under the left-hand end of a narrow roof about 5 m to the left of the 'Fizzgig Fandango' corner. Climb the face to the roof, exit left (balancy) and then continue straight up the middle of the wall.

Note: Another 'sandbag'. It was originally graded at 15. It may even be an 18. The original RD conveniently forgot to mention that there is virtually no gear. If you want to lead this excellent line, you might as well solo it. Until the line is bolted, top-roping is definitely the best option.

58. **Captain Hook (15) ***** (CH)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham, Gavin Raubenheimer; Anthony van Tonder (19 June 2001)

Start below a recess about 3 m to the left of the 'Fizzgig Fandango' corner. Climb straight up onto a ledge below the recess. Pull up on a small chockstone (not visible from below - crux) then continue up the left-tending crack to the top. Fairly sustained but good gear.

Variations: (a) Start in the small, left-facing corner a little further to the left. Climb up to the ledge, move to the right to the bottom of the recess and then continue as above.

(b) Start up 'This Way Or That' for about 5 m and then traverse left into the crack above the chockstone - involves a couple of nice moves.

(c) Just below the top, traverse about 1 m to the left and then exit up the second crack.

59. **This Way Or That (18 or 8) ***** or ****** (TW)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Eric Penman (08 July 2001)
Start at the left-hand tip of the Diamond Block, between 'Captain Hook' and 'Fizzgig Fandango'. Climb the face up to the base of the crack. Jam up into the crack (crux) and then follow the crack straight up to the top. The climb is about grade 17 or 18 if you do not use the block behind you at all, but can be reduced to a grade 8 or 9 scramble by bridging up between the crack-line and the block.

The next three routes are located on the prominent, free-standing 'Diamond Block' so called because of its diamond shaped cross section. The top of the block is level with the rest of the crag. The block is separated from the crag on two sides by a narrow chimney. It is easy to step across from the crag onto the top of the block. We plan to put abseil chains on this block to facilitate quick access to the surrounding routes.

60. **Fizzgig Fandango (12) ***** (FF)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)
Start in the chimney at the left-hand tip of the Diamond Block. Chimney up and onto a large chockstone about halfway up, then continue chimneying straight up to the top. Gear is good except for a longish run-out above the chockstone.

61. **Genghis Khan (17) [7B, C] ****** (GK)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham (13 April 2002)
This route takes a line up the centre of the clean face on the Diamond Block immediately to the right of 'Fizzgig Fandango'. Start with a gorilla take-off using some wedged blocks, then climb straight up the face. If you choose to top out on this line, then exit to the left of the anchors and the blocks at the top.

62. **The Gathering (25) ****** (TG)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

This line is located on the short but impressive face of the Diamond Block, immediately to the right of the 'Ghengis Khan' face. Start on the ledge below the face. This may be reached by traversing in from 'Rubbers in the Surf' on the right, or by climbing an easy crack on the left. From the ledge, climb straight up the face passing a peg (old!) and a bolt near the top. Sustained.

63. **Rubbers in the Surf (17) [xB] ****** (RF) (Retro-bolted)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

Climb straight up the centre of the wall on the main crag, just to the right of 'The Gathering' face.

64. **Close But No Cigar (12) **** (CB)
Opening party: Eric Penman; Gavin Peckham (08 July 2001)

Start about 4 m to the right and about 3 m below the start of 'Rubbers in the Surf'. Climb the jagged crack for 3 m to a small tree and a ledge. Step right and up onto a boulder. Pull through the overlap (crux) and continue easily up to the top.

65. **Hi Ho Silver (14) ***** (HH)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Eric Penman (08 July 2001)

Start about 4 m to the left of the tree at the base of a rubble-filled chimney. Climb the 4 m crack to a ledge. Climb the face, tending right until just below the top, then exit by moving up diagonally left. The last gear is in a thin rail about 2/3 of the way up. It may be wise to place a couple of pieces of gear here.

66. **High Dive (15) **** (HD)
Opening party: F Grandin; Francis Nanni (1988)

To the right of a rubble-filled chimney there is a left-facing, bulging face. The route follows an obvious line straight up the face to pull through a bulge.

67. **Shaking the Grass (18) ***** (SG)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

Start just to the right of 'High Dive'. Climb the steep arête that leads up to the point where the old fence juts out over the crag. (Looks like one of Gerald's traditional 'sandbags'!)

68. **Tooth Mouse (12) **** (TM)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Gavin Raubenheimer (14 Apr 2001)

Start in the corner at the back of the second large recess to the right of the point where the old fence juts out over the top of the crag. Climb the corner at the back of the recess for about 4 m and then move out left onto the adjacent face and climb straight up the middle of the face to the top. Exercise caution, as there are a couple of suspect looking blocks. It is possible to avoid these blocks, although they showed no sign of collapsing under the bulk of an ample, ageing climber.

69. **Crowning Glory (10) *** (CG)
Opening party: Greg Wooding (07 April 2001)

Start about 5 m to the left of the fence at the base of the crag. Climb the left tending blocky line to reach the base of a smooth, 3 m corner (not visible from below). Exit by climbing the nice layback crack in the corner.

70. **Jungle Bunny (14) ***** (JB)
Opening party: Gavin Peckham; Anthony van Tonder (03 June 2001)

This line takes the arête on the right of the scramble down at the end of the crag. Start among the trees at the bottom of the crag and directly below the prominent arête above. Climb the right-hand edge of the prominent crack / chimney to the chockstone and then up onto a platform of rock - about half way up the scramble. Continue straight up the arête above. Gear is sparse, but adequate.

The following routes are always in the shade.

71. **Gay Cats Gone Crazy (20) [xB] ***** (Retro-bolted) (GC)
Opening party: Gerald Camp (1989)

Start 4m to the right of 'Jungle Bunny' and 3 m to the left of a huge, bushy crack that runs the full height of the crag. Climb straight up on good holds for 4 m. Move up diagonally to the right on slopers to reach the base of a small, orange, left-facing (!) open book. Climb the open book on rounded holds and continue straight up to the top. The original RD says 'A scary pump on rounded holds (true), with little gear.'

72. **And Then You Are Dead (23) [9B; C] *****
Opening party: Gerald Camp (2018)

The line of bolts just to the right of 'Gay Cats'. The higher you get, the better it gets, and the harder it gets, testing a variety of skills and strengths. The anchors are next to a fence post jutting out from the top of the crag and can be clipped from the top (with great caution).

73 . **Unknown (25) [xB] *****
First Known Ascent: Dylan Williams 2020.

The line immediately right of 'And Then You Are Dead'. Originally bolted by Matt Salt.

74. **Velvet Thunder (25) [8B; C] ******
Opening party: Warwick Hastie (2020)

The next line of 8 bolts up the beautiful sweeping face. You've got to deal with two cruxes on this one, the last and most difficult at the last bolt. Enjoy the crisp handholds and excellent moves all the way up! The chains are NOT easily accessible from the top, so practise extreme caution if you'd like to access the anchors from the top (i.e. anchor yourself to a nearby tree).

75. **Also Unknown (25) [xB] *****

Good line, but the bottom is marred by dodgy stuff lower down. Pull on the holds with trepidation, but don't fall onto the bolts unless you want to rearrange the cliff face and your future.

76. **Rolling Stones (21) ***** (RS)

Opening party: Stewart Middlemiss; Linda Waldman (1989)

This route is about 10 m past the fenced off area on the nose at the end of the main crag. Climb the obvious crack line that runs the full height of the crag. Bomber gear if you have plenty of cams and hexes for the crack.

77**. Craig's Going To Bali (21) [xB] ******

Opening party: Craig McDonald (2018)

Climbs up to and past a thin crack. Wonderful moves and then finishes on holds that look like jugs.

78. **Soak Up The Sun (21) [xB] *****

Opening party: Gerald Camp (2018)

Just to the right of Craigs' route. A superb route marred by the Weetbix at the bottom. Fire directly up the line of bolts without wandering to the right. There is a horrible bit of Weetbix to get over at the bottom, but the second bolt is close by, just not visible. Feel free to preclip the second bolt, or leave it clipped in when you lower for your second attempt!

79. **Gerald Is A Mouse (17) ******

Opening party: Gerald Camp (2018)

Past an inviting red face (needing a route) to the right of the previous route there is an open book. Wonderful little adventure you can face-climb or layback. This route has been offered grades from 15 up to 18. Take your pick.

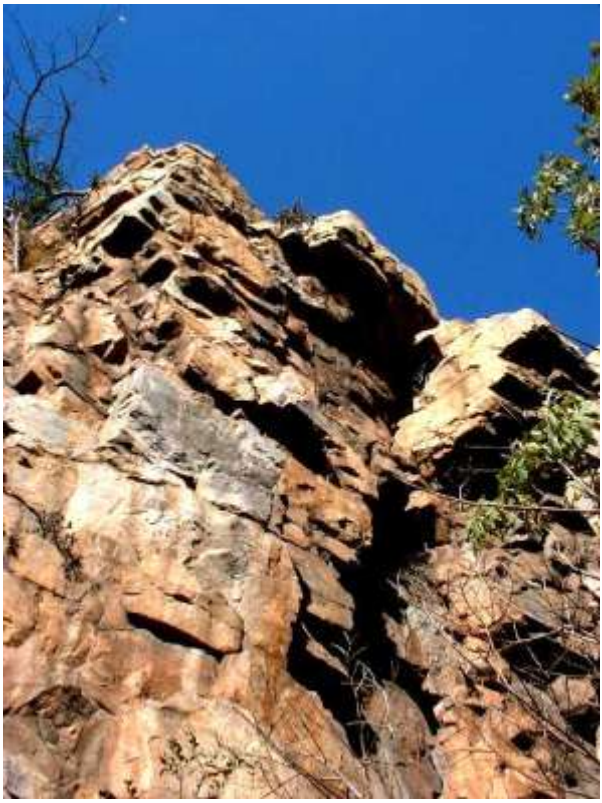
80. **Conspiracies (19) ****
Opened by Craig McDonald (2018)

On the other side of the open book is another one facing it. Scramble onto a dusty ledge. A bit contrived. Get the best value by face climbing it and avoiding stepping onto the other face.

81. **Another Also Unknown (11) ***
F.A. M. Salt

Short route right of Conspiracies.

82. **A Mystery. (?)**
Bolted by M. Salt. No evidence of it being climbed, and very unlikely. Short but fierce looking.



'Tooth Mouse' (12) takes the central line up this broken face.

Index of Routes Listed by Grade

Links in pale blue are for routes that are essentially "off limits".

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Gathering, The **** (TG)

Velvet Thunder [8B; C] ****

Also Unknown [xB] ***

Cool Jewelled Moon *** (CJ)

Sister Moon *** (SM)

Unknown [xB] ***

24

Maniacal Expertise **** (ME)

Moon on Ice [xB] **** (MI)

Planet Digit Direct ****

23

And Then You Are Dead [9B; C] ***

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Planet Digit *** (PT)

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Space Odyssey 2002 [7B, C] **** (SO)

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Girlfriend in a Coma ** (GF)

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Frog * (FG)

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Woops *** (WP)

Dixie ** (DX)

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On Root [4B, C] ** (OR)

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Red and Grey Chute *** (RG)

Close But No Cigar ** (CB)

Pas de Deux ** (PX)

Tooth Mouse ** (TM)

Who Forgot to Flush? ** (WF)

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Unnatural ** (UN)

Another Also Unknown *

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Crowning Glory * (CG)

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Tweedle Dum * (TU)

8

This Way Or That ** (TW)

Tweedle Dee * (TE)